

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** organ and tissue transplantation can save, prolong, and improve the lives of hundreds of South Carolinians and tens of thousands of Americans each year; and

**WHEREAS,** approximately 710 South Carolinians are currently among the 80,000 Americans who are on a waiting list to receive an organ transplant; and

**WHEREAS,** tragically, because enough organs and tissue are not available, 29 South Carolinians died waiting last year; and

**WHEREAS,** while approximately 10,000 to 29,000 organ donations could occur each year in the United States, unfortunately only an estimated 5,000 people per year actually become organ donors; and

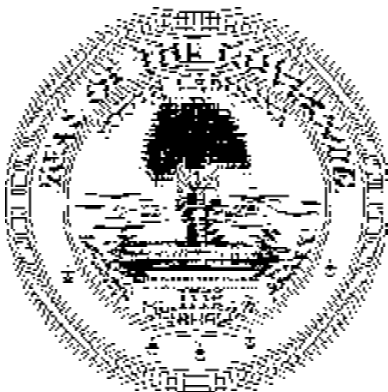
**WHEREAS,** the Gift of Life Trust Fund is a non-profit, charitable organization established in 1996 by Act 262 of the South Carolina General Assembly to educate our citizens about the need for organ and tissue donation and to provide financial assistance to patients navigating the transplant process; and

**WHEREAS,** continued efforts to increase awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation could mean the difference between life and death for citizens throughout South Carolina and the nation waiting for a transplant.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as

### DONATE LIFE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to become organ donors to help save, prolong, and improve the quality of life for our fellow citizens.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

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**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**